



SKAGIT GEMS

Official Publication of the Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Serving Skagit County WA Since 1961

February 2017
Volume 57, Issue 1

Happy New Year

What's inside

Pres. Message	2
February Meeting	2
NFMS Show	3
Gem Article	4
Geology Article	5
Shows, Field Trips	6
Club Info	7
List of Officers	7

Great Fun at the Installation of our new President, Wes! Here he is being passed the baton. Thank you to everyone that came out!!!



President's Message

Hello Rock Hounds,

I hope everyone is well in this New Year and ready to get out and do some rockhounding when the weather breaks. I would like to invite everyone to be involved in club activities this year and make a commitment to offer to help others to learn and have fun.

I will make this offer right now --- I am willing to conduct a class on metal working that is the basis of jewelry making. I can show you how to form steel, brass, copper, or aluminum into a yard wind item or other decorative / useful thing. Your suggestions are welcome. I know metal and you know what you like so together we should be able to find a project that will work for you. We all have skills that we can share with others.

In closing I will make this pledge;

I will do what I can to make this a good year to be in the club, but I need your help.

Thank you from your new president, Wes Frank

Next Meeting: February 4th
Gem of the month: Amethyst and other
February birthstones (see article on page 4)

Program:
Gemstones: their origins and what gives them their
physical properties (color and hardness)



Meeting Minutes: Dec 3, 2017

- A brief meeting was held during the xmas party to elect a new club President. Out-going President, Eric, called the vote and with only one nominee, Wes Frank was voted as new President. Dave Britten will continue as Treasurer, Greg Hochmuht will continue as VP, and Susan May will return to her post as Secretary after a leave of absence last year.
- Dave presented the report from our Gem Show in November . Thank you to all who gave of their time to make it a success.
- The club received four applications for our scholarship. Noni and Joe, the Scholarship Committee, will go through them and put forth their first choice.
- Installation ceremony in January, no regular meeting. Next Meeting February 4th.



The club has a request from someone looking for used lapidary equipment. He is looking for a 6 in. saw and a lapidary machine for polishing cabochons. Please let Debbie know if you have anything and she will put you in touch with him.

NFMS SHOW!

Hosted by the Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Society

First Interstate Center Ravalli Fairgrounds

Hamilton, Montana May 19-21, 2017

Show Times are Friday 10-6 Saturday 10-6 Sunday 10-4

Speakers at the Federation Show:

Dave Trexler, Paleontologist,

Two Medicine Center George Stanley Jr.,

Professor of Geosciences and the Director of the

Paleontology Center at U of M Ted Antonioli,

Consulting Geologist, Member of Montana Mining

Association Bruce Baty,

Talk on Glacial Lake Missoula Lee Filliman,

Fossils and Petrified Trees of Yellowstone



Montana



A Walk Through Time --- *FROM STARDUST TO US*

The Walk Through Time unfolds on giant picture boards with a scientific understanding of the five-billion year evolution of life on Earth. The Walk progresses from the formation of the solar system to the present. The Walk offers a rich context for exploring fundamental issues regarding humanity and the future of all life on Earth and is a real life the physical Walk presented over the length of 1/2 mile. It will be displayed outside on the East lawn of the fairgrounds and is a wonderful way to learn about the geology of our planet with your children. This is a free event.

The Other February Birthstones

Pearl

Pearl was a traditional birthstone for February from as early as the 15th century. This February birthstone is among the few gemstones that are not produced by geological activity, but of biological processes. Pearl occurs when a mollusk coats a foreign irritant with mother-of-pearl, giving birth to the round February stone. Pearl is regarded as symbol of purity and genuine love; hence, this February gemstone is widely used as jewelry for engagement and weddings.



Akoya Pearls Source: Multicolour.com

Moonstone

Known as chandrakanta in India, moonstone is the birthstone for February in the Hindu calendar. This February birthstone is feldspar mineral consisting of alternate layers of orthoclase and albite, which lets the gemstone refract light within itself, giving the February gemstone the appearance of glowing from within. This birthstone of February is believed to stimulate clairvoyance, and relieve anxiety at the same time.



Moonstone cabochon Source: Steve Perry Gems

Bloodstone

Bloodstone is the birthstone for February in the old Tibetan calendar. This February birthstone is a green variety of opaque chalcedony speckled with red spots, which is usually red jasper. The February stone is believed to enhance courage, as well as increase physical strength, leading to this February gemstone being worn by athletes and warriors in antiquity.



A polished piece of bloodstone or heliotrope
Source: Ra'ike via Wikimedia Commons

Minerals on Planet Earth – Water

(Article Four of Series) by David Britten



Water? Where did the water come from? When did it come to earth? Certainly water couldn't have been present on our early molten orb – wouldn't it just boil away?

Water is composed of two of the most common elements: hydrogen and oxygen. When these two elements are in the same vicinity they react quite readily to form water. Water was present in great quantities in the "dust" cloud from which our sun and planets were formed. Water in its solid form (ice) was delivered directly to the earth from comets.

When these great ice chunks hit molten earth, they did not go up in a great cloud of steam as you might think. The comet penetrates deep into the magma where gravity again does its work. The great mass of molten rock kept steam from escaping, like the lid on a pressure cooker. Even the solid rock of earth contains small amounts of water. Deeper liquid magmas may contain as much as sixteen oceans of water. Earth's inner core is estimated to "harbor" eighty oceans of water!

Magmas at the surface, of course, lose most of their water in the form of vapor. As more magmas pushed to the surface, water vapor began to concentrate in the atmosphere. As cooling continued, liquid water began to rain from the sky and "soon" water covered the planet. Basalts flowed from fissures beneath the water and waves lapped at volcanoes pushing above the surface.

The first rain drops fell through a hot house atmosphere of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide. These gases dissolved into the water making it very acidic. These acid rains began dissolving exposed basalts and the oceans quickly became highly concentrated with dissolved minerals.

Water is essential in the rock recycling process and the formation of new minerals. Of equal importance, however, is the role water plays in the evolution of life on our planet.

Next: Life Changes The Earth

Note: I was greatly aided in this quest to find the origins of the rocks and minerals of our planet by a book by Robert M. Hazen called The Story of Earth. - David Britten



Mineral Council Field Trips

The Field Trip schedule had not been posted as of printing time. We should know more by the meeting on the 4th. Or you can check by going to www.mineralcouncil.org

Local Gem Shows

Whidbey Island Gem Club 52nd Annual Sweetheart of Gems Show

February 11th 9am—5pm, 12th 9am—4pm

Oak Harbor Senior Center

51 SE. Jerome Street Oak Harbor, WA

Mt. Baker Rock & Gem Club 55th Annual Rock and Gem Show

March 25th 10am - 6pm, 26th 10am - 5pm

Bloedel-Donovan Park

2214 Electric Ave. Bellingham WA

Maplewood Rock and Gem Club April Sale

April 8th 9am - 6pm 9th 10am - 6pm

Maplewood Rock and Gem Clubhouse

8802 196th ST SW Edmonds WA

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Meetings are on the FIRST Saturday of the month (except for Jan, July and Dec) at 10:00 am at the
Mount Vernon Community (Senior) Center
1401 Cleveland St. Mount Vernon WA 98273

- The purpose of this non-profit earth society shall be to stimulate interest in the study of geology, lapidary, and the collection of geological specimens
- We are a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Washington State Mineral Council. We are affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.
- Dues are \$15.00 per year for adults and \$7.50 for those under age 16
- Visit our website: skagitrockandgem.com



Officers and Committees

President	Wes Frank
Vice President	Greg Hochmuht
Treasurer	David Britten
Secretary	Susan May
Fed Director	Virgil Keltz
Bulletin Ed	Debbie Frank
Past President	Eric Self

Annual Show Chair-Eric Self

Banquet- The Men

Display Table-Open

Education Coordinator-Open

Facilities/Field Trips- Dave Britten

Greeter-Linda Keltz

Library-David Britten

Scholarship-Nona Avery, Joe Kantor

Mineral Council & PLAC-Open

NFMS Competition-Open

Nominating Committee-Executive Board

Program-Open

Publicity-Frank Isca

Stamps-Virgil Keltz

Sunshine- Open

Swap-Vandenburs

Ways & Means-Executive Board

Every Committee that
says 'OPEN' is an
opportunity
to help!



**Skagit Rock and Gem Club
Debbie Frank, Editor
20379 Aliston Ln.
Burlington WA 98233**

Free Admission Days to National Parks

- January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
 - February 20: Presidents' Day.
 - April 15-16 and 22-23: Weekends of National Park Week.
 - August 25: National Park Service Birthday.
 - September 30: National Public Lands Day.
 - November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend.
-